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ANCIENT SKILLS AND WISDOM REVIEW

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Edited and published by: PAUL SCREETON, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool,
Cleveland, TS25 2AT. Quarterly Subscription £2

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"THE LAMBTON WORM & OTHER NORTHUMBRIAN DRAGON
LEGENDS" by PAUL SCREETON (Zodiac House, 7
Hugon Road, Fulham, London SW6 3EL, £2-35pp)

Another name for this book could have been a tour or guide to the dragons of Northumbria, because that is what basically Paul Screeton gives us. One by one, in the first part of the book, Paul examines the material which remains today concerning the dragon legends of Northumbria, looking at the different versions of the stories and at what writers in the past have believed these dragons to be. As he shows, there are many conflicting versions -- both of legend and interpretation. The Pollard Worm, for instance, killed by a member of the Pollard family near Bishop Auckland, turns out not to be a worm or dragon, but a large boar which gained notoriety after killing several people. Paul also, in several cases, describes the places where events in the stories are supposed to have taken place or are connected with the legend concerned, which is very refreshing -- so many of the people who wrote down the stories begin with "it is believed that...." or something similar when describing the local features or relics. Paul is able to give first-hand information about the sites, or if unable to see the actual relics as in the case of the figures at Lambton, he has made sure that they exist, in this case by checking with the manager of the park.

In the second part of the book are listed all the churches in the area which contain dragon carvings or depictions in stained glass. It is when one sees such material listed like this that one realises what a powerful symbol the dragon was in the minds of the people, for Paul lists over eighty sites containing dragon depictions, mainly to be found in churches, but also including such places as Hylton Castle, Co. Durham, and York Minster. This feeling is reinforced when one reads the different versions of the several popular ballads about dragons which Paul has also included in the book.

Part Three was, perhaps, for me the most interesting, for in this section he discusses several theories about what the dragon could be. He has a quick look at the main theories, such as there being "prehistoric leftovers" or symbolising enemies or the Devil. Paul starts to become more esoteric when he looks at the dragon symbolising Scorpio in two terrestrial zodiacs in the Durham area. This sounds an interesting theory and it would be interesting to see more of it. He also discusses several other so-called "fringe" aspects of the dragon, such as their link with ley-lines and possible UFOs, a link which I feel is very important to the understanding of this energy, whatever it is.

So, overall then, the book is mainly a description of the main legends in Northumbria, and shows, among other things, how the legends can vary, and can have grown from comparatively ordinary events. There are eight pages of pictures in the book which look as though they have come from fairytale books. They are very impressive drawings and etchings, and I wish that Paul had labelled them all as I am intrigued by one or two of the more exotic ones near the end of the book and would be interested to know where they come from.

It's an interesting book, and a well-researched one. If you are on holiday or live in that area, and are interested in dragons, it is a valuable guide to the legends and sites of the area, as Paul gives us a good idea of what is really there, and not just "hearsay".

-- Jan Hout.

***** Paul Screeton writes: The publisher furnished the illustrations. The origin of the only one I know is that of the Hart church effigy which was redrawn from a photograph which I supplied.

(The following review of THE LAMBTON WORM is republished from THE LEY HUNTER with the editor/reviewer's kind permission)

The first

thing that strikes one about this book is the fine production Zodiac House have accorded it -- tasty chocolate and cream cover, and fine illustrations throughout. The next pleasure is realising, as the text is read, that here Screeton has produced his best piece of public writing. It is mature, informative and devoid of the waffle that has hindered some of his other work. Here is an author who knows his subject. He gives full descriptions of the various Northumbrian legends and then lists sites that possess depictions of dragons (carvings, stained glass windows, etc.). The third part deals with the many interpretations of dragon legends -- are they references to "prehistoric leftovers", allegorical images of invaders and oppressors, coy memories of heretical serpent sects, symbols of the Devil (i.e. pre-Christian spirituality), symbols of earth currents or UFOs or elements of a complex psychic scenario? Paul deals with most of these ideas in a sensible, if brief, manner. He slips in some old and worthless chestnuts regarding leys and UFOs, but it is otherwise pretty impressive. (The ley-UFO link has never been satisfactorily researched, and much loose talk and spurious claims are bandied about. The only serious -- yet still very incomplete -- information on this is in the possession of Ian Thomson and myself, to be published later.). On a point of dragonlore, Paul omits reference to St Elmund's Well in the Laidley Worm legend -- important, as our recent ley survey shows it to be on a ley! All in all, a fine book worth having. Nice one, Paul.

-- Paul Devereux.

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"A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DRAGON" by JANET HOULT
(Gothic Image, 7 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset.
£1-05pp)

That extraordinarily wise psychoanalyst C.G. Jung observed that: "There is no difference in principle between organic and psychic formations." We may usefully apply that view to dragons. Jung also stated that "as a plant produces its flowers, so the psyche creates its symbols", and Jan argues coherently and forcefully that the dragon was -- and is -- a powerful symbol for an energy with which we have lost touch. Her bias is strongly towards believing there is an earth energy which we have abused (hence the dragon's noxious breath, dowsing's "black streams" and the awakening of mound spirits). She calls for us to attempt an understanding and relearning of the processes by which the elements of the earth mysteries manifest.

Critical to a full comprehension of this, Jan points out that though the story of the dragon is an involved and multi-faceted one, all the time it has its base in the dual energies of earth and sky, and that a difficulty in gaining an overall comprehension of dragonlore has been the form's depiction in many different ways and by a wide spectrum of religions.

She begins by considering the possibility of the dragon/serpent/worm as realting to species of prehistoric leftovers, but moves on to preferring more parapsychical levels of interpretation. A great deal of mythological material is referred to along with extant artifacts from many civilisations; coverage is given to various celebrations; to forms created in past ages particularly utilised in the monuments; she gives thumbnail sketches of a cross-section of the 60 or so British dragon legends she has collected; and spends time relating the motif to Christianity and the legend of King Arthur.

However, even though a wide spectrum of viewpoints are given a fair hearing, she obviously favours the earth/sky link and I was most intrigued by her vivid description and reflections upon seeing an energy form in the sky of intertwined loops similar to Ringerike elaborately-coiled dragon carvings. This experience essentially echoes a personal confrontation with an elemental form I encountered at a quartz markstone in Carlisle and which I feel related to an elemental. Jan

and her husband Tom Graves are dowers and her leaning towards an energy explanation for dragons is understandable and in harmony with my own.

In this short work is condensed the current intermeshing interpretations of dragonlore along with a style which flows easily and the book has 38 line illustrations, bibliography and index. It is a fine, comprehensive yet simple introduction to a complex and stimulating subject.

"MAGICAL AND MYSTICAL SITES (EUROPE AND THE BRITISH ISLES)"
by ELIZABETH PEPPER AND JOHN WILCOCK (Weidenfeld &
Nicolson, £6-50)

From writing guide books of a general type, the nomadic national paper journalist wanderer John Wilcock has turned to occult-slanted travelogues and this one is co-written with Elizabeth Pepper, fellow "Witches Almanack" producer. This pilgrimage covers a wide area of Europe (mostly the Mediterranean region) and all parts of the British Isles. The habit and trait of writing for the tourist of hitch-hiking adventurer is kept to a minimum and the emphasis is on evoking the atmosphere of the spiritual centres and setting them in historical contexts, and the work is fleshed out with folkloric accounts.

The book vibrates with interest in the sites and Wilcock when staying with us during his 1974 trip (which produced "A Guide to Occult Britain") explained how it had been a revelation for him to put aside his old journalistic cynicism and the dubious values that entails to find a more rewarding search for magic. That quest then was undertaken with Martha Zenfell, and though she was shattered, Wilcock exuded boundless energy and enthusiasm.

No doubt section III will be of greatest interest to readers, covering as it does Cornwall (giants), London (Druids), Glastonbury (King Arthur), Wales (Merlin), Stonehenge (an overview of the mystique and the theories), Scotland (dragons and lake monsters, fairies and prophecy), and Ireland.

Part I covers the spiritual centres of the Mediterranean such as Malta, Delphi, Rome, Pompeii, Atlantis (the Santorini heresy) and several places unknown to me. Part II journeys to the Spanish peninsula, Germany and France (Scandinavia, Low Countries and Balkans are avoided).

It is written entertainingly and most material is given without resorting to sensationalism or dependence upon an earth energies thesis. Rather their excursion is enlivened by accounts from mythology and folklore: oracular pronouncements, Druidic practices, dragon-slaying heroism, chivalrous Arthurian knights and the potency of Merlin's magic, fairies with powers to enchant, elusive lake monsters, stones of power, to the belief in a police radar surveillance of Stonehenge. This is a magical mystery tour which the reader can turn into a spiritual quest.

"THE MASTERS OF WISDOM" by J.G. BENNETT (Turnstone Books, £3-95)

The central hypothesis of this work is that there is "The Demiurge", an intelligence guiding the affairs of mankind and working through the agency of advanced human beings called Masters of Wisdom. This concept involving a guiding hand is not new, but the freshness stems from the originality of his view of human progress with his theory tested against the known or partially known history of man (mostly here in regions unfamiliar to me -- particularly his demystification of Chingis (Genghis) Khan). Some readers will find no problem in comprehending and believing his Demiurgic intelligence as a conscious force associated with evolution and creativity created by mutation.

In early times the Masters of Wisdom were The Demiurge and not just its priests. This was the period of the New Stone Age and the building of stone circles as temples of ritual magic, when men began to enjoy anstract concepts and not just

animal needs; the era when the proportions and formulae enshrined in the stones in the stones seem to have had no practical value to herdsman but only to an adept.

Much I applaud, such as that, "There are two basic duties for man in this life; one is to serve nature and the other is to find God," and there is plenty upon which a Christian can cogitate, such as why the four gospels are written differently and Bennett's personal views on events in Christ's life. His comments on Gnosticism are particularly worthy, yet the author oversimplifies phenomena such as healing and conversion.

Unfortunately Bennett died on the day he had decided to write the book's last chapter and it has been published just as he left the manuscript when he died. Had he lived we would have learned of his opinions of how men of wisdom beyond human understanding had intervened in European affairs and what he intended to say about the present day masters.

It is an optimistic, if esoteric, work which covers territory of a personal and challenging nature from an erudite and spiritual writer.

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MAGAZINES: PART 1.

Lantern. Published by B.S.I.G. Q. Sub. 85p inc. p&p. From I. Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4RX. No. 21. Aerial phenomena issue with East Anglian sighting reports, folklore of bees, ufo-logy, old fireball reports, Press oddments, comment piece on Black Shuck.

Just Measure. Donate and receive copies from The Anti-Metrication Board, Stroud Manor, Blackstroude Lane, Lightwater, Surrey. No. 4, Spring. For starters you're reading this on A4 metricated paper and for my sins I changed "T.L.H." under my editorship from "traditional" quarto as I believed metrication to be irrevocable and irreversible. That was when I travelled to London regularly and the $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}$ and mile posts were being replaced by metric ones from the Kings Cross end, but this vile policy was abandoned quickly and thankfully. I have been a conservative supporter of traditional measures and though as a newspaper sub-editor I supply the composing room with layouts marked in centimetres, I alone have steadfastly chosen to mark photographs for blockmaking in inches and find it easier to think in inches. J.M. reports on the Anti-Metrication Board commonsense and rebels who defy the bureaucratic juggernaut which now finds itself in an uncanny slide into the central reservation and hearty resistance. People are instinctively drawn to lost causes, but in this instance the opposition seems to be winning. Worth supporting.

International Times. Cover price 30p. 97A Talbot Road, London W11. Vol.4 No. 4. There's an account of the beginning of the Operation Julie acid trial which I found more sympathetic than the national papers' coverage; Peter Roberts links sex and economics fascinatingly; R.A.F. (Baader-Meinhof) latest; Free Town of Christiana; Isle of Man; Travel Notes; two paths to enlightenment; Steve Abrams; pendulum; selection of poems by such luminaries as Brian Patten, Adrian Mitchess, John Michell, Tuli Kupferberg and Gregory Corso.

Stonehenge Viewpoint. Can be ordered from 51 Charminster Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 1RS. Bi-monthly. £1-50. Vol.8, No. 8. Always great value and printed as a newspaper. Donald L. Cyr reporting from S.Wales, Cornwall and Somerset. More on the mystery of St Genevieve's Circle. A King Arthur article on his last campaign. Also plenty on the editor's halo theory interest. Vol. 8, No. 9. D.L. Cyr on Swedish megaliths. Big piece on life of Isaac W. Vail (halo hypothesis discoverer), rings of Uranus and oil prospecting. Vol. 9, No. 1. Silbury Hill and D.L. Cyr still on the trail of the dragon's eye; Nigel Pennick on pioneer researchers in geomancy; Salisbury Cathedral's siting; Cyr on Atlantis; cows and ley power; and an ill-informed piece by Richard Roberts on Stonehenge. Vol.9, No. 2. Cyr's "Pilgrimage to Glastonbury" with splendid pictures of the celebrants; "Chalice Well Pilgrimage"; and Salisbury Cathedral. The editor has an easy style and involves his canopy theory mantle interestingly. There is also in this issue "The Coventry Landscape Zodiac" by Michael Green.

"FLYING SAUCERS" by C.G. JUNG (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £2-75)

Two decades on and we are no farther forwards towards solving the UFO phenomenon. Jung's 1958 preliminary study, subtitled "A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky", remains a classic and unfortunately his insights have been either misunderstood, misinterpreted, mistreated or ignored. His challenging commentary has only affected the work of a minority of ufologists and with "CE3K" influencing the general public an emphasis upon nuts 'n' bolts, extraterrestrial theorising is likely to snowball.

Jung died in 1961 and this book has been out of print for several years. As one of a series of Jung paperbacks it should not be regarded as cashing in on the renewed interest in flying saucers. In fact, most people will already have deeply entrenched views on the subject and to argue that they might be manifestations of his postulated collective unconscious of mankind will be hard to accept for many. Most are alarmed to realize the extent of man's inner space and the baffling interplay between humanity and what we term phenomenal reality (where the impossible -- to the conscious at least -- occurs and repeats). The link between UFOs and quasi-religious cults; the argument for vastly superior technologies light years beyond; the salvationist claims and consequent disappointments make a rich tapestry and everyone will prefer one of the many alternatives projected upon UFOs. The interplay of history and psychology can be seen in mythology causing us to act out a design and here we also see, though Jung does not articulate it, that elements of the fairy faith are paralleled in UFO contacts.

Jung obviously realized that the mystery was even greater than he could adequately explain, but was at pains (his reputation was necessarily jeopardized) to warn that an essential ingredient in the pattern was the psychic aspect. "In such an unusual matter as the UFOs, one has to take every aspect into account". He is dismissive of the long series of pat "explanations" to discredit witnesses and also of those who abhor all that smacks of the "occult". The ET supporters also receive short shrift for their one-sidedness ("Anything that looks technological goes down without difficulty with modern man"). He also pertinently notes the meteorological connection with many myths; sexuality's role, too.

In addition to discussing the mechanism of the rumour in society he also analyzes the UFO in dreaming and painting, its place in a historical context and also in a non-psychological light. The epilogue also focuses upon deeper meanings in two contemporary novels by British writers.

Much of the approach, too, relates to wider issues, and the reading of the book gives insights into other areas of the paranormal, which inevitably are all part of a giant jigsaw.

The style is not heavy-handed and he had a nice line in the put down on Page 7, "One cannot but respect the unflinching scepticism of Dr Dryden; it gives stout-hearted expression to the feeling that such preposterous rumours are an offence to human dignity". Not afraid to challenge orthodoxy, scientists, the Establishment, C.G. Jung reckoned that there was something in the UFO phenomenon worth laying his academic credentials and hard-won reputation on the line for, then it says a lot for the subject. It's a pity so few of those engaged in the study have a fraction of his intelligence -- for this is the thinking man's ufology book and bears reading and re-reading often, for it is a subtle work worthy of reapplication after reading other works. Somewhat like its subject, it continually surprises, and is as fresh today as 20 years ago.

* "The Standing Stones of Norfolk and Suffolk" by Michael W. Burgess (East Suffolk & Norfolk Antiquarians Occasional Paper No. 1. From the author at 21 Kirkley Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk. 60p, ic., p&p).

* "The Standing Stones of the Lothians" by Adam McLean. (Megalithic Research Publications, 12 Antigua Street, Edinburgh 1, £1-50).

* "Kentish Megaliths and Alignments" by F.J. Bennett (Fenris-Wolf, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD. 50p, inc., p&p).

Here are three related books focusing upon an oft-neglected topic -- the lesser known old stones of particular regions.

Michael W. Burgess has for many issues been regaling the "Lantern" magazine readership of his markstone fetish and claiming he would desist. Happily his obsession has transmitted itself to a visually excellent work. His booklet is a slim, but pleasantly illustrated work with 24 plates, and as the author mentions, the only other work on the subject had far fewer stones described and only two pictures. Mike has described the location (former and extant), formation and folklore of stones free standing or occupying a place in a church's fabric. He shows that he has muddied his boots in seeking elusive stones -- often without success -- and corresponded successfully for additional data, though in some instances the locals must have been taken aback by his probings, I feel. And I know the feeling when one's questions draw that expression of bafflement and a slight queasiness of being in the presence of an escaped asylum inmate. However, Mike -- a person of strong views it seems -- keeps to the subject and leaves leys, puddingstone track theorising and other aspects to their own devices. There is a bibliography and notes and it is altogether a fascinating document. It would be good if others could produce comparable booklets of their own vicinities.

Adam McLean's booklet is presented in a more academic-looking form with the three regions of the Lothians given separately with each feature of the standing stones listed under type, map reference, directions, altitude, dimensions, substance, accessibility, importance and details. It is under the later heading that much of the work's interest lies, for Mr McLean gives possible astronomical alignments and folklore.

He has visited all the sites described and has shown an interest in applying not only astroarchaeology, but also dowsing. He writes that "we can all feel in our encounter with the stones a closeness to a mystery, a spiritual presence. The purpose of this book is to lead people to that encounter. Like Mike Burgess's book it is the first complete guide to the stones (plus cairns and other sites) of a distinct area and is also illustrated with several photographs.

The book is introduced by brief chapters on archaeological preconceptions, dating, purpose of the stones (funerary, religious, as instruments), and methods of investigation (excavation, leys, dowsing for earth forces). Another useful book.

Fenris-Wolf's welcome production of F.J. Bennett's little-known paper, originally published in the South Eastern Naturalist, in 1904, is another example of proto-ley hunting, by a surveyor.

He found meridional lines followed by megaliths, churches, castles, camps and tumuli, generally N-S, but sometimes E-W, also that the megaliths and churches were frequently one mile apart, and that churches and older sarsens sometimes occurred together. Many of these are given and are most impressive (it is a pity a map could not be included to add visual impact). These factors, Bennett stated, "seem more than a mere coincidence; and though it may not prove anything, it warrants, I think, further investigation along these lines." Of course, during the intervening years this has been done.

A slim volume, it is gestetnered on tasty yellow paper and between illustrated covers.

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"A LITTLE HISTORY OF ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGY" by JOHN MICHELL (Thames & Hudson, £1-50)

"THE HIP POCKET HITLER" by JOHN MICHELL (Hassle Free Press, P.O. Box BCM 311, London WC1 V6XX, £1 T think)

Though seemingly having no connection other than that the same author penned both, it is a fact -- and adequately delineated in the former book -- that the Third Reich was involved in speculating upon prehistoric alignments with patriotic fervour and seeking a prehistoric heritage of intellectual magnitude which would also fit its occult notions (Tony Roberts told me recently that Martin Webster, mini-Fuhrer of our National Front had read his work and was interested in aligning Atlantean geomancy and his "politics"!). Previously available at £3-75 in hardback, this slim volume -- though more than adequately illustrated -- is now within the reach of many more persons' pockets. The stages by which this heresy have become acceptable are ably documented and here is another nail in the coffin of those who still

disbelieve Prof. Alexander Thom's data. Thankfully the Glyn Daniels and Jacquetta Hawkess of this world are approaching the fate of the dinosaurs. For a fuller review see A.S.W.R. 2, but meanwhile, to quote Oscar Wilde, "we are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars".

As for "The Hip Pocket Hitler" it has had its precedents -- Mao's similarly red book and the wit and wisdom of Prince Philip -- and no doubt Herr Hitler would have approved of this collection of opinions and epigrams. For someone universally condemned (even publically by our N.F.) -- Hitler said: "I promise you I am quite free of all racial hatred -- and reviled much of what he had to say shows wisdom and commonsense, presuming this anthology of demystification is a balanced assessment, which knowing the author I am sure it will be. One is tempted to review this slender but eccentrically produced work purely by a personal choice from pearls the Third Reich's leader cast before swine. However, it would be equally helpful to make a number of other observations.

The first subheading relates to Atlantis and then its Extra-Terrestrial Flight, coincidentally (?) the subjects which first brought John to the public's notice and Hitler's viewpoint on prehistory is that which John stresses in "The View Over Atlantis". Actually Hitler and I share many prejudices, disliking bureaucracy, lawyers, schoolmasters and blood sports, but most of all inflation (his concentration camps for those encouraging this could be usefully reintroduced). However, we disagree over "a toad is but a degenerate frog" and I dislike many aspects of his views -- chauvinism, anti-Semitism, royalty, etc.

Eohn and I have mutual contempt for Erich von Daniken, who was formerly a Swiss hotelier, and unless John puckishly slipped a self-concocted Hitlerism, we find "The Swiss: Their only resources are their fraudulent business dealings. The best use we can make of them is as hotel keepers."

As I stated, these works seem poles apart, but the last paragraphs of this book enjoins them: "Every town should have an observatory, for astronomy has proved the best way for a man to increase his knowledge of the universe and thus avail any tendency towards mental aberration."

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"WITCHES" by NANCY GARDEN; "MAGICIANS, WIZARDS & SORCERORS" by DANIEL COHEN; "CURSES, HEXES & SPELLS" by DANIEL COHEN; "THE BODY SNATCHERS" by DANIEL COHEN; "POLTERGEISTS; HAUNTINGS & THE HAUNTED" by DAVID C. KNIGHT. All The Weird and Horrible Library, J.M. Dent and Sons, £2-50.

These five books are written simply and without sensationalized embroidery to present aspects of the occult rationally as introductions for young people and also useful for any adults curious about arcane matters.

"Witches" basically looks at what people have believed about witches in various parts of the world at various times, being a type of "Which Guide of Which Witch is Which". It starts with Ulysses encountering Circe, following through Christianity's arrival in Britain, across to America and to Africa, to the horrors of witch hunts in Europe, Devil worship, the story of Salem, voodoo, and today's witches. It covers the characteristics of witches, their abilities of shape shifting, controlling weather and fecundity, and also details the pagan festivals. There is nothing too gory or salacious and it is a good introduction to the subject for the young. It neither condemns nor glorifies its subjects and offering no new insights into the subject, simply serves to present the subject simply.

"Poltergeists" presents 11 type cases in which according to the author "represent the cream of noisy spookdom". He questions the validity of acquainting young people with his subject, and surely adolescents playing a key role as the rule rather than the exception in the mechanism which creates such disturbances in the ether, it is very necessary. The book explores poltergeists in their popular conception and their activity, with historic and modern cases selected. This is a fascinating aspect of the occult, drawing heavily upon the psychological and phenomenal reality. Connections with subterranean water are made, though in a physical rather than pseudophysical (to coin a term) way. The concludory chapter brings together rational consideration

of a wide variety of theories but "to sum up, then, the present state of scientific knowledge cannot allow any concrete conclusions to be drawn as to the ultimate causes of poltergeist activity". And so it is.

"The Body Snatchers" covers much wider ground than the title suggests. Burke and Hare and their ilk are only one aspect covered. Beginning with a resume of how we bury the dead it goes on to those removing corpses, a plague produced by the unsavoury but somewhat understandable needs of the teachers of anatomy (though Christians -- and others -- had and have an abhorrence of the dissection of the human body and even the interference with the course of a disease (reflected today in the human vegetable situation which many relations wish to end for those they love). It also covers the pyramid desecrators (do you know how the mummy got its name?), the folkloric theme of the sleeping hero and the political cases of body removal, plus zombies, vampires and screaming skulls.

"Curses, Hexes and Spells". This covers the old family curse (including the Kennedys), accursed creatures (with the Lambton Worm located mistakenly in Dorset -- instead of Durham), accursed places (yes, The Bermuda Triangle revisited, Mary Celeste), accursed wanderers, black magic, and amulets and talismans.

"Magicians, Wizards and Sorcerers". This book covers in a simplified manner the same territory covered by W.B. Crow in his essential work "A History of Magic, Witchcraft and Occultism". Scanning the history of his subject from the pyramids, Cohen covers the era up to Christianity, mediaeval magic, alchemy, through mesmerism and the Golden Dawn to the present day. The ending paragraph is a real deflation, but one suspects it may be only to put off the impressionable reader unwilling to garner further knowledge before choosing a magical path.

All in all this series is a good primer for anyone wishing to embark upon occult study and practise; sensibly presented unsensationally.

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"GLASTONBURY: ANCIENT AVALON/NEW JERUSALEM" edited by Anthony Roberts (Rider & Company, £2-95)

Reviewed in ASWR 3, the limited editions published were justifiably and happily sold out rapidly and a professional publisher was required to handle the demand. As I wrote then, "There have been other books on the mysteries of Glastonbury, but this one outstrips all others. Accept no substitute; own a copy." So for those who missed the early Zodiac House production it is now available from Rider (a Hutchinson Group imprint) with the addition of an Afterword by Colin Wilson. Disappointingly there is nothing new in Wilson's observations and to the seasoned student of earth mysteries his commentary would have proved a more suitable introduction for the novice reader, paling in significance as it does by comparison with the scholarship of the other contributors. Wilson's name writ large on the back of the cover suggests the publishers' involvement? I do not wish to denigrate Wilson, whose work I've greatly admired (and read the majority) for 15 years or so, but for me at least it was an anti-climax. Nevertheless, as I said, obligatory reading.

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THE GREAT ARTHURIAN TIMESLIP by ERIC RATCLIFFE  
(7 The Towers, Stevenage, Herts., 90p + p&p)

With timeslips and time spans, the author argues a possible error of 450 years in respect of the historical warrior Arthur. He attempts to justify a candidate for Arthur from the first century. I have believed for some time that Arthur, like Patrick, is not the name of an individual but relates to a political or religious position, just as people refer to The Pope rather than to a personalized name. Hence, interesting though this work is, I was unimpressed by the argument.

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THE LEY HUNTER. Premier magazine of earth mysteries. Six issues sub. £2-70 (U.S. 8 dollars). P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. No. 80. Ancient America Issue. Opens with Francis Hitching's U.S. "Earth Magic" version material, though this is largely duplicated and advanced upon by Andrew E. Rothovius in "Megalithic Archaeo-Astronomy and Geometry in New England". More geometry and astronomy is given by Dr E.C. Krupp on Uxmal. John Michell sparkles as always discussing prehistoric earth sculpture in Wisconsin and Iowa. T. Edward Ross II has challenging views on leys and power centres and his dowsing-psyhic approach is provocatively speculative. Other material on power in the U.S. is given by Charles R. Pettis III and Sigfrid R. Lonegren. Book and magazine reviews concentrate upon the U.S. and Jan Hoult write of an American dragon. Other pieces cover the editor's ambitious Dragon Project, the Festival of Mind and Body and terrestrial zodiacs. Splendidly illustrated and meticulously laid out, this late issue has been well worth the (in the various circumstances understandable) delay.

FORTEAN TIMES. Miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Q. Annual sub. £3. No. 24. Fascinating frog, fish and other falls, monster birds, ghosts, the Doc Shiels Loch Ness photographs revisited, bugs from outer space, corrections to "Phenomena" material, geophysical curiosities, booms; articles on fire leynes by Larry E. Arnold, "UFOs, Clouds and Pseudo Planes" by J.B. Delair; plus extensive review supplement and news items.

THE ATLANTEAN. Q. Annual sub. £2-40, from The Atlanteans, 42 St George's Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. No. 173. Tony Roberts writes on Tolkien's "Silmarillion"; Chris Lee updates a piece he once wrote for T.L.H. on the Orkneys; rude Sir George Trevelyan writes on New Age philosophy; plus world round-up by Betty Wood, advertisements and book reviews.

PICWINNARD. The magazine of Wessex leys and folklore. Bi-monthly. Sub. £2, from Hythe Bow, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3EH. No. 3. Editor Vince Russett concludes his article on Mendips megaliths by focussing on Stanton Drew and also writes on fairs; there's Ferd le Vere on "The Legend of St Congar"; Jane Lilly on "The Pagan Festival of Easter"; Paul Herniman begins arguing that Cornish was the language of Wessex; a geomantic figure found by A.D. Jack; an article on Wells -- the city that is; plus book reviews, letters, "odds and sods", and Loxton and Harptree ley. No. 4. The editor at length on "Minehead's May Celebrations"; the Herniman article continued; Colin Smith presents personal findings on church orientation; Ferd le Vere presents personal findings on church orientation; Ferd le Vere on Bath -- the spa that is; and wells -- holy ones that is; plus Bristol leys. Illustrated.

PULSAR. From Pulse Publications, 29 Bairstow Street, Preston, Lancs., PR1 3TN. Cover price 30p. Vol. 1, No. 4. John Billingsley on the Hebden Bridge Zodiac with "Beasts of the Field"; reprint of Patricia Villiers-Smith's "Bend Me A Maze"; Jenny Randles on UFOs. Vol. 1, No. 5. Robert Morrell makes observations on the previous issue's "Bend Me A Maze"; a somewhat tenuous and vague argument for "The UFO-Ley Connection" (there is a massive literature of orthodoxy and I'm not denying any connection, but this is too superficial to have value); a piece by Terry Smith without any comment on the nature of his claim to extraterrestrial contact; an even wierder -- hoax -- piece on a CE3K of which we can expect plenty more this year; and the recent poem "Desiderata" reappears as if from 1692 whereas it is well documented as another hoax, however wise its content. This magazine is looking to a 50,000 circulation, but will have to find more solid material to gain a fraction of that total.

MAPIT SKYWATCH. Publication of Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team. Bi-monthly. No price. From 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE. No. 27. Informal publication devoted to ufology and related subjects. Mark A Tyrrell on a Crewe "high strangeness" case; "Canadian UFO Cover-up" by Howard Gontovnick; R. Markwick continues "Contactee Cases"; plus sightings, notices, etc. No. 28. Bermuda Triangle, Warminster, Jupiter, plus clippings, group and general news, sightings scene.

NEARA JOURNAL. Publication of New England Antiquities Research Association dedicated to a better understanding of U.S. historic and prehistoric past. Q.



From NEARA, 4 Smith Street, Milford, N.H., 03055. Vol. 12, No. 2. Scholarly articles on "Southern Cult temple mounds; presence of "cult traits" at mounds; a new Vinland theory; the Pettis article also in T.L.H. 80; plus other articles and reviews. Vol. 12, No. 3. Archaeological finds at Hewburyport last year with prehistoric clues; intriguing holed axe found in New York; astroarchaeological research at a standing stones site with superb equinox photo; plus mythology, man's reasons for lengthy voyaging and which ones might have occurred; plus publications and continuing articles catalogue.

COVEN. From A.H. Services, 303 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5AJ. Q. Sub. £1. No. 1. Articles certainly polarised my feelings. Father Raoul Belphegor on "The True Satanic Church" fires with all guns at Christianity and "Three Famous Occult Myths" by S.I.C. gets it all wrong about terrestrial zodiacs. The other articles are more moderate, though as a first issue it is hard to judge its direction.

SUT ANUBIS. From Occultique, 73 Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4AW. Sub. £2. Single copies 55p, inc. P&P. Vol. 1, No. 3. Appalling printing this issue. Mike Howard taking a new look at the Old Religion; Kenneth Grant defended on the O.T.O.; Pete Nalder on the occult; Aubrey Melech on "Meditation and Ritual"; herbal highs, reviews and adverts. Vol. 1, No. 4. Big improvement in printing with interesting articles on such topics as Crowley appearing under pseudonyms in fiction and personal experiences of a haunted house, though I found this issue too Crowley-oriented.

NESSLETTER. From Rip Hepple, Ness Information Service, Huntshildford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ. Sub. £1-75 (U.S. 7 dollars). No. 26. Did Rip's daughter see Nessie from her cot?; a 1974 sighting; Lake Champlain news; "Ogopogo" and other book news. No. 27. Varied L.N.M. back curvature debated; Loch Morar news; plus general news and contacts.

QUEST. From BCM-SCL Quest, London W1CIV 6XX. Q. Sub. £1-75; single copies 50p. No. 33. Magical heritage of the West. Articles on alternative medicine, an interdisciplinary studies call, pagan festivals, New Age religions, Celtic heads, Horus, intuition; plenty of announcements on groups, magazines, services; book reviews.

UNDERCURRENTS. Cover price 45p from Undercurrents Ltd., 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT. Or annual sub. £3 from 12 South Street, Uley, Dursley, Glos. (cunningly there's two free back issues for a two-year sub.; three for three years and so on...) No. 27. (you'll probably get all back issues for a 27-year sub.) Alternative technology news, plenty of letters, soft energy politics, fast breeders, small tools for small farms, a Denbigh workers' co-op, cycling, fish breeding, compost, Shakers, woodstove, book reviews.

WARK. A guide to the non-professional fantasy and comics/comix press. From Rosemary Pardoe, Flat 2, 38 Sandown Lane, Liverpool 15. 30p or 85p for three-issue sub. Rosemary reviews the British fantasy scene, Ramsey Campbell the U.S. scene and Mike Grace tackles the U.K. comics. Dave Langford takes a one-off look at occult fanzines (though the latter word hardly applies) and makes fun of Quest and Star Child. Letters column and illustrations. It's years since I've seen such a 'zine and find it a refreshing change. This being No. 11 with a fine cover with wild cat and Celtic head.

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY. Q. magazine of the Institute of Geomantic Research. Price 60p per issue but £3 entitles membership, four issues of Journal and any occasional papers produced during currency of sub. Vol. 2, No. 3. Much metrological material including defence of the metre, Israelitish intervention, the cubit, and metrology and chance. A rare Alfred Watkins article. David Stringer has a poorly argued and oddly constructed dragon article and Alan Bullion describes a Sussex dragon. Terrestrial zodiacs of Bristol, Stonegate and Hebden Bridge are featured and the letters include a specially timely one from Mary Caine.

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Next issue: Books by the Bords, Tom Graves, John Barnatt and many others will be reviewed.

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